

Mirror editorials, etc.

So few

At the last meeting of Carbondale city council, there were as many councilmembers present as there were citizens in the audience. The seven members of council sat in front, discussing matters that concern each and every one of the over 10,000 residents of the city and yet there were, as we counted them, only seven residents there to hear what they had to say.

Of course, there were members of the administration present and the press was there to give accounts of the meeting in the following day's newspapers.

But there were only seven people here who wanted a first-hand account of the meeting. If residents of the city are sitting back and saying, "We don't have to go because the press is there and we find out everything from the papers," they're mistaken for two reasons.

The first is that the press in our community doesn't even if one of our colleagues can't.

The second is that the press only reports what happens at the meetings.

Just by reading about a meeting in the newspaper, a citizen may be informed, but he or she is not participating in the government. Most people believe that their participation begins and ends when they enter the polling booth and when they leave it. That's it. No more.

But there is more than just voting (which is a very important part of our citizenship about which we'll write later) and attending meetings and voicing your opinion is part of it.

Tax increase coming?

At a press conference the other week, Mayor Fred J. Mancuso of Carbondale reported that city real estate owners will probably be facing a seven- to 10-mill increase.

While that is certainly a bitter pill for anyone to face, the mayor did detail how the money coming in has been going out faster each year.

Using figures (most of which were printed in last week's issue of the Carbondale MIRROR), the mayor

sought to show that inflation and rising salaries and wages has been the culprit in forcing the tax increase. And the figures he used gave much credence to his tax increase talk.

He told the media that he has trimmed excess expenditures in city hall — even to the point of laying off nine people the week before.

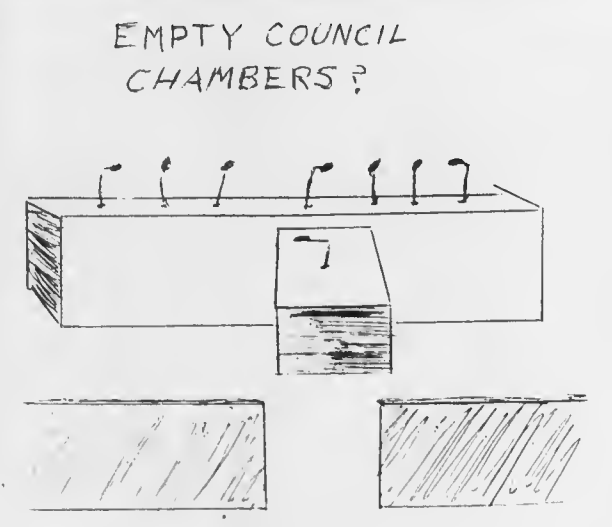
But, as a taxpayer (as the mayor who said he is tired of tax increases as a taxpayer), we ask that he and his entire administration search out every means of keeping any anticipated tax increase to a minimum.

Doing this will help make the city a more attractive place for new business and industry — provided that keeping taxes low is not a time bomb situation.

That is, putting the city in debt and had credit just for the sake of pleasing taxpayers now.

That was done before and the taxpayers of the city are now paying for it through the cost of paying off a loan the city had to take out several years ago to pay its debts.

In other words, if we have to pay for it now, Mr. Mayor, show us that everything is done to keep the taxes as low as possible.



The Carbondale Mirror is published weekly by Dale Bonars, Inc., 64 Fallbrook St., Carbondale, Pa. 18007. Telephone 717-282-0786. Managing editor, Paul Starnes; features editor, Nan Waters; night editor, Pete Smith; office manager, Bernadette Starnes.

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Letters to the editor

Tom Kenney — prose and verse

October 3, 1981
by TOM KENNEY

Now, the summer season's over, trips to the seashore, fond memories, and the twilight time (dawn) sun and snow a time to reflect.

So, with the shoreline once again, hoven to the sounds, here and there, telling of times, here and now, along those whispering October shores.

And remember the horizon, the setting sun, the water, the waves, the sand, the seagulls, the birds, the sun.

Walk with me my friend, walk the shores of that shiny sea, look over horizons, the setting sun, the setting water as they run, ever together in the sand.

Think of the peaceful settings there, amidst tumbling tides and salted air, the sun, just times, nothing more, along those whispering October shores.

Short days ago, in the summer's heat, the shores were covered with happy feet. Now, the waters cascade the shore, and time speaks softly. "Never more."

Love is gentle wave-tossed waves, the night sea breezes, thick the days, of hardened love, the chaotic ways, revealed, we did, in vaulted haze.

Walk the shoreline made by me, let your man, thoughts lay idle, And as you walk, just move along, and listen to the sea, its call and song of times, just times, nothing more, along those whispering October shores.

It tells a tale, a secret hidden, of man, his dreams, his inhibition, as he never ending fight to be superior all yet have empty.

For on those calm autumn nights, the sea talks in whispers, and she's right, She's telling us, "Live, live just life."

Editor's note: Just sent to the Carbondale MIRROR, 64 Fallbrook St., Carbondale, Pa. 18007.

According to Joseph Leitinger Sr., Linco, the five others worked at the Erie Mine in Mayfield, of the Temple Coal Co. "If I had been in the mine, I would have been the first to die."

Leitinger also has copies of the photo and in fact, showed the MIRROR his father's stainless steel belt buckle. Each of the first and crew wore a similar buckle in the picture.

"I've lost my money," she said sadly. "The money I just got paid." "It wasn't a huge sum, but I'm pretty sure this is just a coincidence."

Included in the photo are Leitinger's father, Miss Leitinger, Henry Smallcombe, Brian's great-grandfather, Will Merritt, Michael J. Walsh and John Kane.

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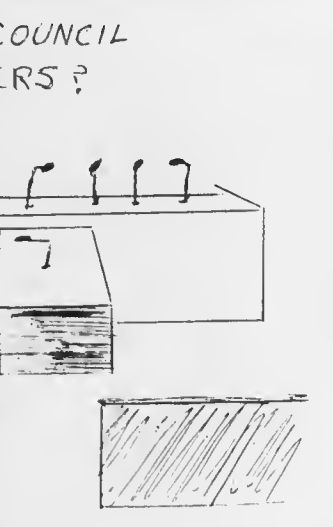
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Mirror consumer news

Carbondale area recipe exchange

Classic is this beef stroganoff

The MIRROR welcomes and will publish recipes from individual cooks, in an effort to provide interesting, creative cooking directions for special events and holidays or everyday family favorites. There are no prizes, no gimmicks — just send your favorite recipes, with explicit directions to the CARBONDALE MIRROR, 64 Fallbrook St., Carbondale, Pa. 18007. Or drop them off at our office. There is ample free parking at the rear of the building, courtesy of Figliomeni's Drug Store.

The following recipes are favorites of Mrs. Joseph Laguzzi, 35 Hospital, Street, Carbondale.

Classic Beef Stroganoff

1 lb. Sirloin steak about 1/2-inch thick
2 tablespoons butter
1 medium onion, minced
1 can (10 1/2 ounces) condensed beef broth (bouillon)
2 tablespoons catsup
1 small clove garlic, minced
1 teaspoon salt

3 tablespoons flour
1 cup dairy sour cream
3 to 4 cups hot noodles
1/2 lb. mushrooms, sliced

Cut meat across the grain into 1/2-inch strips, about 1 1/2 inches long. Melt butter in large skillet. Add mushrooms and onion, cook and stir until onion is tender then remove from skillet. In the same skillet, cook meat until light brown. Reserving 1/3 cup of the broth, stir in remaining broth, the catsup, garlic and salt. Cover and simmer 15 minutes.

Blend reserved broth and flour, stir into meat mixture. Add onion, lightly beat to boiling stirring constantly. Boil and stir 1 minute. Reduce heat, stir in sour cream, heat. Serve over hot noodles.

Southern Biscuits

2 cups flour

2 teaspoons sugar
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/3 cup shortening
2/3 cup buttermilk

Heat oven to 450° F. Measure flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and soda into bowl. Cut in shortening thoroughly, until mixture looks like meal.

Stir in almost all the buttermilk. If dough is not pliable, add just enough milk to make a soft, pluffy, easy to roll dough.

Round up dough on lightly floured cloth-covered board. Knead lightly 20 to 25 times, about 1/2 minute. Roll a little less than 1/2-inch thick. Cut with floured biscuit cutter. Place on ungreased baking sheet. Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until golden brown.

How to teach a room county manners

By LIS KING

The country look marches on, proving its popularity in every nook and cranny of the land and, frankly, confounding many a decorator who thought this another passing phase.

But, as home fashion expert Diane Gensie of Benchmark Wallcoverings explains it, "country" isn't just the style that's plaguing America into the '80s.

"It symbolizes a way of life, and it'll probably stay with a lot of people for the rest of their lives," remarks Ms. Gensie.

"The common denominators of the country movement are warmth and spirit, but both qualities are subject to interpretations. Therefore, country rooms are enormously varied and unifying."

Today's country look may be outright rustic, especially traditional agate Victorian, nostalgic a la Grandma's attic, or mostly modern.

But, increasingly, it mixes bits and pieces from any period, any region, delighting as much in the whimsy of a grasshopper setting as a Maine westerline as in the fine workmanship of a Sheraton desk.

"If you think this sounds like 'antique' going, it's quite right. But 'antiquing,' this kind of a look tends to scare do-it-yourself decorators. So, here, country of Ms. Gensie, are some down-earth tips.

For a quick tour of the country styles, check Benchmark's "Going Country" collection, which is carried by fine wallcovering shops throughout the country.

Although the collection obviously was designed to help shoppers select wallcoverings and fabrics, in color photos featuring well-designed rooms are eye-openers.

Also, check the patterns and rooms featured in Benchmark's Caprice collection. There, you have a more contemporary approach to the country styles.

Naturally, Ms. Gensie is slightly prejudiced when she ends your wallcovering shopping as the first leg on your decorating journey.

But, her suggestion does make sense. For, as decorators have long known, wallpaper and fabric patterns are superlative.

It takes but a great wallpaper print to rock a rather empty room look comfortably furnished, give a basically contemporary room a sense of tradition, unite a too eclectic furniture mix, camouflage architectural oddities, and give a room a specific viewpoint.

For creative chic, you might use more than one print in a room. Today's wallcovering and fabric collections abound with groups of color and design-related styles that make it easy to go from a calico wall print to floral curtains to plaid slipcovers to mismatched yellow chairs.

There's no need to have a roomful of "country" furniture. A single piece that's really eye enough for a start. Then, keep your eyes peeled for accessories.

Rough-hewn 18th-century "Adirondack" pieces are quite affordable and readily available. Every one of them is sure to add that country flair to any room.

Make yours a functional piece, such as a cupboard that'll hold your stereo paraphernalia, or a cabinet that'll store your linens. They'll buy anything "for show." Pick them because you love to look at them and/or they'll function well in your setup.

Good places to look for furniture and accessories: country auctions and antique shops, flea markets and estate sales.

Never pass up old quilts, baskets, stone-ware, pewter and primitive folk art. They will enhance any room at all and are super inflation fighters as well.

Another budget-measure is hanging your own wallcovering. Benchmark's products are of the dip-and-bag variety — extra easy to handle.

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